

"THE HOME DEMONSTRATION PICTURE ALBUM";

Presented by the

Delaware Home Demonstration Clubs
at the Annual State Meeting
May 4, 1950

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INTRODUCTION: (MRS. BURTON walks onto stage from left side carrying an album opened as if she were looking at it. She stops just in front of the stool and faces the audience.)

BURTON: "It's always fun to look through old picture albums... and here is an old one I found in the attic while I was house-cleaning the other day." (Starts to leaf through, continues standing there while MRS. HOUTH comes in from opposite side.)

HOUTH: (Coming on stage from right side with scrapbook)
"I'm glad I've kept our Home Demonstration Club scrapbook up to date this year ... we all feel it means a lot to the club to see their records preserved. The scrapbook reminds us of the good times we have had together and the many new homemaking practices we have learned. Our club president has asked me to bring the book to the meeting today so all our members can see how much we have accomplished this year. Well, I have a few minutes to spare before Mrs. Green picks me up, so I think I'll look through the book."

(Both women arrange themselves on stools, opening the scrapbooks in their laps. They sit facing halfway between the audience and each other, so they can see what is being presented within the frames.)

BURTON: "My goodness ... this old album has pictures of home demonstration club members and some of their activities in the year 1920. It's good for a laugh now ... but you know, I don't exactly feel like laughing when I consider that people in 1920 thought that their clothes and homes were the last word in fashion. Of course, we have come a long way since then ... but what do you think people thirty years from now will think of our homemaking methods of 1950? Let's look at these 1920 pictures to see just how much progress has been made since those first years of home demonstration clubs in Delaware."

(turns page of book)

AUDITORIUM LIGHTS DIM:

CURTAIN OPEN:



SPOTLIGHT ON LEFT:

BURTON:

"On this page is the picture of a group of club women cooking for a church supper. I'd say the kitchen is rather crowded ... certainly it is a hot, busy place. This was before the days of labor-saving cooking utensils ... notice the old coffee grinder, the mixing bowl and spoon...and that stove! It was a backbreaking job getting a meal when you had to keep feeding wood into the stove and looking into the oven to see if the bread was burning. The string beans cooking in that pot won't even taste like beans when they are served, because they have been cooking in a pot half full of water for almost an hour. No wonder women spent most of their time in the kitchen back in those days."

SPOTLIGHT ON RIGHT:
(KEEP ON LEFT)

MOUTH:

"Working in my kitchen certainly is a pleasure since I've learned to use new cooking methods and equipment. Last month when the club served a luncheon we took a picture of the kitchen committee. It was easy cooking a casserole dish in the electric roaster ... measuring out coffee into the electric coffee maker ... and whipping up a cake with the electric mixer. We don't know what we would do without the pressure saucepan. It cooks vegetables in a few minutes using very little water ... and none of the vitamins are lost. We've recently started using a new product ... brown and serve rolls. We also have found time-saving ways to make rolls and cake ... by mixing up some of the ingredients in quantity, ahead of time and storing them in the refrigerator or cupboard. When we use all these new cooking methods .. we have much more leisure time to spend with our families and friends, and I am sure that our families are better fed, too. I know that our meals are better from the standpoint of nutrition and they certainly have more variety."

SPOTLIGHT REMAINS
ON BOTH SIDES FOR
ABOUT 10 SECONDS

CURTAIN CLOSE:

MUSIC WHILE SCENES CHANGE:

CURTAIN OPEN ON BEHIND
STAGE SIGNAL:

SPOTLIGHT ON LEFT:

MRS. BURTON:

"What a drab, dreary picture this is ... the parlor of one of our early members ... and the scene of a club meeting no doubt. No wonder the parlor was used only on special occasions ... who would want to spend much time in such a colorless atmosphere? Some women must have been afraid to use bright

colors ... as I recall, the wallpaper, carpets and draperies were brown, tan or other equally dull colors. And imagine trying to read by that light! I know a lot of us used kerosene and gas lights out of necessity before we had electricity ... but who would ever want to go back to them. Well, I've seen enough of this depressing picture."

SPOTLIGHT ON RIGHT:

KEEP ON LEFT:

MRS. HOUTH: "Here is a very recent snapshot ... of the demonstration we had last month on color in home furnishings. We learned that we should plan the color of our wallpaper, rugs, drapes and slipcovers in a unit ... so that the colors will harmonize. We learned too that color has a definite effect on the way people feel ... so we are going to use a combination of several interesting colors in each room. Notice how the drapes and slipcovers pick up the colors in the wallpaper. And see how attractive a finishing touch is added by the venetian blinds. Then, to keep the room bright even at night, we will use a three-way lamp. I'm sure anyone would like to live in this living room."

SPOTLIGHT ON BOTH SIDES FOR ABOUT 10 SECONDS:

CURTAIN CLOSE WHILE SCENES CHANGE:

MUSIC UNTIL SIGNAL FOR CURTAIN TO OPEN:

SPOTLIGHT ON LEFT SIDE:

BURTON: "Even in 1920, one of the club women sometimes brought her baby along when she couldn't find a baby sitter and she didn't want to miss the demonstration. The poor baby in this picture must have thought she was going to the North Pole ... for she is being bundled up to her eyebrows. The well-dressed baby of that period still wore a band, a sleeveless shirt, a long-sleeved shirt, stockings, one or two petticoats, and a long dress. And, naturally, three-cornered diapers. Then, as if that wasn't enough, baby had to be wrapped tightly in blankets. If many of the children were puny ... could it be partly because they didn't have the strength to move around in all that clothing? Incidentally, the date on this photo is April 30, 1920."

SPOTLIGHT ON RIGHT SCENE:

HOUTH: "All the world loves a baby ... particularly a healthy, happy baby. One good way we found of making sure our baby has a chance to grow up healthy and happy is to dress him sensibly and allow him plenty of room for exercise. In warm weather, he plays in just his little shirt and disposable diapers ... he has such a grand time kicking and waving his hands. A

handy gadget we have used is a pad to which we attach a set of harness straps so the baby is held securely ... and there is no danger of his rolling off. This is nice if we take baby visiting ... because it is easy to put him to bed on his pad." The letters to young mothers that our home demonstration agent has been sending to us have brought a lot of these things to our attention.

SPOTLIGHT ON BOTH SIDES FOR ABOUT 10 SECONDS:

CURTAINS CLOSE:

MUSIC WHILE SCENES CHANGE:

CURTAIN OPEN ON BEHIND STAGE SIGNAL:

BURTON: "Every time I see one of those old flatirons as a doorstep now, it brings back memories of my mother standing near the stove, ironing for hours at a time, and stopping every now and then to reheat the iron. If they called them 'sad irons' then, I can see why. It didn't help either to have a lot of tucks and ruffles to iron ... and each ruffle must be made crisp and free from wrinkles. Much of the house work in 1920 was hard physical labor because equipment such as washing machines, electric irons and vacuum cleaners was still scarce."

SPOTLIGHT ON RIGHT:

STAY ON LEFT:

HOUTH: "A combination of modern equipment and labor saving methods makes today's housekeeping chores comparatively easy. Our home demonstration club has had several meetings on new equipment and how to use it ... how to arrange it ... and how to care for it. Take the family ironing for instance. The electric mangle requires the least effort ... but many people still find that the electric iron does a satisfactory job. It is light weight ... and the heat can be controlled. We have found it saves our energy to sit down while we iron ... with the radio turned on to our favorite program, we have a comfortable afternoon."

SPOTLIGHTS REMAIN ON
BOTH SCENES FOR
ABOUT 10 SECONDS

CURTAIN CLOSE:

MUSIC WHILE SCENE
CHANGES:

CURTAIN OPEN ON
BEHIND STAGE SIGNAL:

SPOTLIGHT ON LEFT:

BURTON:

"Whoever said that 'a woman's place is in the home' would have wondered what he was talking about if he had looked at this picture. Obviously these ladies have met for an afternoon of sewing, because underneath is written, 'The Tuesday Afternoon Sewing Circle.' I don't believe that many socks got darned or many shirts actually had buttons sewed on them ... for the ladies enjoyed the chatter and gossip more than they did the sewing. I can just hear the conversation of this group, can't you? It seems that Mrs. Jones has heard that her neighbor heard that another neighbor, Mrs. Smith, is planning to run for president of the PTA. Imagine ... a woman PTA president! The men would never stand for it. Participation in politics or other community affairs was still largely a man's business. The women stayed home and tended to their knitting."

SPOTLIGHT ON RIGHT SCENE:

HOUTH:

"Home demonstration club work has expanded beyond actual homemaking skills. Many clubs, including ours, now take an active part in many community doings. For instance, almost every one of our women has some responsible job in an organization that benefits the community. The picture I'm looking at now shows five of our members and the groups they belong to. Left to right, they are ... Red Cross grey ladies ... Girl Scout leaders ... church choir ... 4-H local leaders ... and community recreation committee. These and many more are a vital part of our club program... Through these volunteer tasks, we help our club understand how everybody can work together to make our community a better place to live in. Our club has enjoyed the letters on Delaware government this year. After all why shouldn't we know how our local and state government functions and something about the duties of the people we vote for?"

SPOTLIGHT ON BOTH SIDES FOR ABOUT 10 SECONDS:

CURTAINS CLOSE:

MUSIC WHILE SCENES CHANGE:

CURTAINS OPEN ON SIGNAL:

SPOTLIGHT ON LEFT:

BURTON:

"In 1920, we may not have bought snake oil at the tent medicine show ... but we still depended on Lydia Pinkham for whatever ailed us. If Johnny had a tummy ache, you can be pretty sure he was given a big dose of castor oil. It looks like the lady in this snapshot isn't taking any chances being sick at club meeting time. She's fortifying herself with celery nerve tonic. Also on the family medicine shelf you would find Father John's medicine, Peruna ... and a host of other patent medicines. Needless to say, people who dosed with these medicines put off visiting the doctor. I wonder how many cases of serious illness could have been prevented?"

SPOTLIGHT ON RIGHT SCENE:

HOUTH: "Our home demonstration club, as well as all others throughout Delaware, has had a health chairman for several years. This chairman brings us up to date by reporting on health facilities, the importance of prevention and early detection of disease and other matters in the medical field. This year our members were urged to visit cancer detection centers, to have chest x-rays for tuberculosis when the mobile x-ray unit came to their neighborhood ... and to learn about the causes of diseases such as diabetes. We feel that when such rapid strides are being made in the medical field ... we should do all we can to keep up with these new disease control developments."

SPOTLIGHT ON BOTH SCENES FOR ABOUT 10 SECONDS:

CURTAINS CLOSE:

MUSIC WHILE SCENES CHANGE:

BURTON: "Women today have much more time for outside interests because they plan their work to save steps. It didn't used to be so easy. Many a homemaker scrubbed her floor on her hands and knees because she didn't stop to think there must be an easier way. She worked hard at all her household chores ... partly because her equipment was limited ... and partly because she used so many extra motions. She probably never thought of using both hands to dust or wash windows ... or arranging her tools in a convenient working order. As a result, she was always tired out from all the extra steps she took. A regular Saturday morning chore in the old days was cleaning lamp-chimneys."

SPOTLIGHT ON RIGHT SCENE:

HOUTH: "I remember this demonstration of better work methods. We tried some new tools and gadgets such as the long handled mob and a pail with a wringer. We have saved ourselves time and energy by asking five questions ... "Does this job have to be done?... Can part of the job be left out?... Can two or more be done at the same time? Is there a better tool that can be used?... Will changing the order of work make it any easier?"

"We had a talk on lighting that same month. Some of our club members have already installed fluorescent lights in the kitchen."

SPOTS ON BOTH SCENES:

CURTAIN CLOSE:

MUSIC:

BURTON: "I've been noticing the costumes people wore back in 1920, as compared with those of today. I think it would be interesting to have a little fashion show ... depicting what the well-dressed lady wore for work and play. Let's see first the old versus the new in housedresses."

CURTAINS OPEN ON SIGNAL:

SPOTLIGHTS ON BOTH SIDES: Hold about 10 seconds (housedress scene)

CURTAIN CLOSE:

HOUTH: "I'd like to see what some of our mothers wore for vacation time ... say a day at the beach."

CURTAIN OPEN ON SIGNAL:

SPOTLIGHT ON BOTH SIDES FOR ABOUT 10 SECONDS: (Bathing suit scene)

CURTAIN CLOSE:

BURTON: "And now for dress-up occasions."

CURTAIN OPEN ON SIGNAL:

SPOTLIGHT ON BOTH SIDES:

HOLD FOR ABOUT 10 SECONDS: (Afternoon dress scene)

CURTAIN CLOSE:

HOUTH: "When I see high-school youngsters running around the play-field in shorts I wonder if they realize how lucky they are to have such a brief, comfortable uniform. The older generation wasn't so lucky. And learning to do sewing at at home demonstration project schools has helped to make these attractive clothes possible for those of us whose budgets are rather limited."

CURTAIN OPEN ON SIGNAL:

SPOTLIGHT ON BOTH SIDES FOR ABOUT 10 SECONDS: (Sport Scene)

CURTAIN CLOSE:

MUSIC DURING SCENE CHANGE:

CURTAIN OPEN ON SIGNAL:

SPOTLIGHT ON LEFT:

BURTON: "My, my! Doesn't this lady look worn out? Do you know why? She has been spending the whole day canning tomatoes. Anyone who stands over a hot stove all day cooking tomatoes will have a hard time staying calm and cool. Back in 1920, the open kettle method of canning was still used in many homes, even though it was not recommended. Besides being a long and tiresome method, the open kettle method invited spoilage. The next canning method in use and still the most satisfactory one for some foods was the water bath method. The pressure cooker came along to replace the older ways -- and it has proved a time and labor saver. We have come a long way since the days of canning and drudgery. Note the old blue-green jars -- foods didn't have their natural appearance at all when we used them."

SPOTLIGHT ON RIGHT SCENE:

HOUTH: "Fresh as a daisy is this modern homemaker who preserves her foods in the freezer. While she follows the same process of picking her vegetables and fruits at just the right stage of ripeness, and washing and sorting them carefully, from

there on, her job is a snap. After she has blanched and cooled her vegetable which is usually very easy, all she has to do is put the food into cartons, seal the lining with a hot iron ...and store it in the deep freeze. She has finished her food preservation so early this afternoon that she has plenty of time to get ready for the club meeting."

SPOTLIGHT ON BOTH SIDES FOR ABOUT 10 SECONDS:

CURTAIN CLOSE:

MUSIC WHILE SCENES CHANGE:

CURTAIN OPEN ON SIGNAL:

SPOTLIGHT ON LEFT:

BURTON: "This picture reminds me a lot of the one I looked at a few minutes ago ... the one showing the ladies sewing circle. Women in the year 1920 didn't pay much attention to international affairs either. It wasn't entirely their fault ... not having the radio and television to keep them informed several times a day. They couldn't be expected to get excited over the situation in Europe or Asia. Neither did they know the thrill of corresponding with an overseas friend ... perhaps a homemaker in France or Holland. No, their interests were still pretty much right in their own home and family. Our friend whose picture is on the last page in my scrapbook is settled down in her rocker, sewing on carpet rags while she has a few moments to relax. If this family is really up to date, they may have a victrola in the parlor. Otherwise, she is probably singing to herself as she works. I daresay her thoughts are on what she is going to have for dinner. She isn't particularly concerned with broadening her horizons."

SPOTLIGHT ON RIGHT SCENE:

HOUTH: "The theme of National Home Demonstration Week this year is "Today's Home Builds Tomorrow's World." We believe, however, that we have to look beyond the four walls of our home in order to build a better world. Our state meeting speaker talked about family life in a changing world. We want to know how and why this world is changing. One way we do this by increasing our understanding of people and customs in other countries. Each of our clubs has an international relations chairman ... who tells us about these foreign countries. Many of our members have pen pals ... women they correspond with and send packages to. Here is a picture ... really two pictures. One shows a home demonstration woman writing to her pen pal friend in _____. She is thanking her for the picture postcards and other descriptive folders that her _____ friend sent to her. We also see the _____ woman reading the letter from Delaware. Thus is formed a chain of friendship ... and an increased feeling of world fellowship."

SPOTLIGHT ON BOTH SCENES:

CURTAIN CLOSED:

BURTON: (Looking at watch) Gracious! I'd better hurry or I'll be late for the club meeting. I don't want to miss the talk on "Latest Developments in Nutrition." The members will all want to see the old picture album, but I've had enough of it. Living in the year 1950 is a definite advantage and I would not want to return to the "Good old days." (Puts book under arm, walks off stage.)

HOUTH: (Standing up and stretching)

"I hear Mrs. Green's car coming up the lane ... so I'd better get my hat on. I wonder if home demonstration members thirty years from now will see this scrapbook and laugh at us? You know, though, while the programs and things we have learned in home demonstration clubs have changed along with homemaking practices, the purpose has been the same through the years ... to bring to homemakers the most recent developments in the field of home economics and to contribute to more satisfying family living. I hope that more homemakers each year will share in the opportunities which home demonstration work offers ... I certainly have found it interesting but more than that ... very helpful! (walks off stage)

AUDITORIUM LIGHTS UP

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